



San Antonio Fire Department Holiday Safety

From the National Fire Protection Association Website: <http://www.nfpa.org>

Christmas Tree Safety

Safety Tips:

- When decorating Christmas trees, only use lights are designed for indoor use. Larger tree lights should also have some type of reflector rather than a bare bulb and a testing laboratory should be listed on all lights.
- Never use electric lights on a metal tree.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions on how to use tree lights. Any string of lights with worn, frayed or broken cords or loose bulb connections should not be used.
- Always unplug Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to sleep.
- Never use lit candles to decorate a tree, and place them at least 3 feet away from tree branches.
- Try to keep cut trees as moist as possible by giving them plenty of water daily. Do not purchase a tree that is dry or dropping needles.
- Choose a sturdy tree stand designed not to tip over.
- When purchasing an artificial tree, be sure it is labeled as fire-retardant.
- Children are fascinated with Christmas trees. Keep a watchful eye on them when around the tree and do not let them play with the wiring or lights.



- Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source and try to position it near an outlet so that cords are not running long distances. Do not place the tree where it may block exits.
- Safely dispose of the tree when it begins dropping needles. Dried-out trees are highly flammable and should not be left in a house, garage, or placed against the house.

If you live in San Antonio, call 211 (United Way) Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. for a free smoke detector installed by the San Antonio Fire Department.